

Message Text

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O 041427Z MAR 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 042425

TODEP 126

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION JUSMAG MACTHAI J-2, 7TH PSYOPS GP
OKINAWA MACHINATO JAPAN, SECSTATE, FBIS WASHDC, FBBK, MARCH
3, FROM FBIS BANGKOK RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE UNCLAS RUMO

THAILAND SEEKS U.S. VIEWS ON FORCE REDUCTION

D030351 BANGKOK THE NATION IN ENGLISH 3 MAR 74 P 1 D

((TEXT)) THE GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK CONFIRMATION FROM U.S.
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE KENNETH RUSH ON THE REPORTED U.S. INTENTION
TO QUICKLY REDUCE THE LEVEL OF U.S. FORCES TO 20,000 WHEN THE LATTER
ARRIVES HERE ON TUESDAY.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID THAT RUSH WILL ALSO BE TOLD OF THE
THAI GOVERNMENT'S NEW POLICY TO PUT EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL
COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. INSTEAD OF MILITARY COOPERATION AS IN
THE PAST.

AMONG THE TOPICS FOR TALKS WITH RUSH WILL BE THE GENERAL REVIEW
OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES, THE OFFICIALS SAID.

THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, THAILAND WANTS
THE U.S. TO PULL ITS TROOPS OUT ON A REGULAR PROGRAMME OF WITHDRAWALS
BUT THE MILITARY SITUATION OF INDOCHINA MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE U.S. WAS PLANNING A CRASH PROGRAMME
TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF TROOPS FROM 35,000 TO 20,000 AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF LOGISTICS REASON. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL
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CONFIRMATION EITHER FROM THAI OR U.S. OFFICIALS.

RUSH WILL ALSO VISIT CAMBODIA WHERE IT IS EXPECTED THAT HE WILL TRY TO THRASH OUT THE POLITICAL SITUATIONS WHICH ARE BLOCKING THE WAY TO SETTLEMENT OF THE SITUATION THERE.

THE PROBLEM WAS GENERALLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT LON NOL AND HIS CLOSE ADHERENTS. 3 MAR LANZ/VP 03/0428Z MAR.
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